



JOHN WILKES Esq^r.



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THE WHOLE
A C C O U N T
O F

JOHN WILKES, Esq;

From the Time of his being chosen
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT for
AYLESBURY, till his depar-
ture to FRANCE.

To which is added,

All his remarkable Speeches since his Return to
ENGLAND; his Letters he wrote to the
Livery of LONDON; his Address to the
Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the
County of MIDDLESEX; his Speech to
the Court of KING'S BENCH on *Wednesday*
April 20, 1768; together with his Letter to
a GREAT PERSONAGE.

Printed by J. MILLER, at No. 8, in
Church-Street, near *St. George's Church*,
Southwark: Where Bills, Catalogues, Club
Orders, &c, are printed neat and reasonable.

1768.



The Proceedings concerning JOHN WILKES, Esq;

JOHN WILKES, Esq; late Member in parliament for Aylesbury, in Buckinghamshire, the reputed author of the North-Briton, No 45, published on Saturday, April 23, 1763. was taken into custody on the 30th of that month, and all his papers seized, by a warrant under the hand and seal of the Earl of Halifax, one of the secretaries of state, directed to four of his majesty's messengers; hereupon a motion being made in the Court of Common-Pleas, then sitting in Westminster-Hall, for that purpose, an *habeas corpus* was granted, but could not be sued out till four in the afternoon of May



May 1, and, though it was known such a writ granted, Mr. Wilkes was sent to the Tower, without being permitted to see any of his friends that might attend upon him there, who were several times repulsed in their applications. On May 3, in the morning, upon a second *habeas corpus*, the return of the first being insufficient, Mr. Wilkes was brought up to the Court of Common Pleas, where he made a spirited and sensible speech, setting forth the hardships he had suffered, and the case being learnedly argued by eminent serjeants at law, both on the side of the crown and the prisoner, the court took till Friday, May 6, to consider the case and give their opinion, remanding Mr. Wilkes, mean time, to the Tower. On the last mentioned day he was again brought up to the court, which he addressed in a second speech, in which he observed, that "the liberty of all peers and gentlemen, and what touches the more sensibly, that of all the middling and inferior class of people, who stand most in need of protection, is, in his case, to be that day finally decided upon: A question of such importance, as to determine at once, whether English liberty be a reality or a shadow." Then the Lord Chief Justice, Sir Charles Pratt, (the present Lord Chancellor) stated the matter in question, and pronounced Mr. Wilkes's commitment was not illegal; but that his privilege of a member of parliament was not destroyed, as he was not charged with treason, felony, or breach of the

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peace;

people; therefore the court ordered him to be discharged, on account of his privilege: Hereupon Mr. Wilkes again addressed the court, returned his thanks for their upright decision, and was attended to his house in Great George-street, by an infinite multitude of people, with universal acclamations. He, that very night, wrote to the secretaries of state, demanding his stolen goods, which he said, he was informed were in their lordships possession, and next morning applied for a warrant to search their houses, which was refused him. Receiving an answer from the secretaries of state, which was not satisfactory, he made a bold and stinging reply. Whilst he was in the Tower on May 4, he was dismissed from the post of colonel of the Buckinghamshire militia, and before the end of the term, an information was filed in the court of King's Bench, at the king's suit, against him, as author of the aforesaid North Briton, No. 45. We must now observe that the meeting of the parliament, the paper intitled The North Briton, No. 45, was resolved to be a false, scandalous, and seditious libel, &c. and it was ordered to be burnt by the hands of the common hangman: Notwithstanding which Mr. Wilkes complained to the house of a breach of the privilege of that house, by the imprisonment of his person, the plundering of his house, the seizing of his papers, and the serving him with a *supæna*, upon an information in the court of King's Bench; but the house resolved, " that privilege of parliament

liament does not extend to the case of writing and publishing seditious libels, nor ought to be allowed to obstruct the ordinary course of the laws, in the speedy and effectual prosecution of so heinous and dangerous an offence:” Mean time on Nov. 16, Mr. Wilkes was wounded in a duel by Mr. Martin, whereupon his physicians attending the house and certifying his then languishing state, the order for his attending the house was put off to Dec. 16, and, upon further representations to the 19th of January 1764, before which time Mr. Wilkes had retired into France, and on the said day he was expelled the house and a new writ ordered for the election of a member for Aylesbury, in his room. On Feb 19. 1764, he was found guilty at the court of King's Bench for the publication of the North Briton No. 45, with notes, and for printing and publishing the *Essay on Woman*, but had obtained before, viz. on Dec. 6, 1763, a verdict against Mr. Wood, late under-secretary of state, with 1000 l. damages, for seizing his papers, &c. when the lord chief justice gave his opinion, that *general warrants* were illegal. Mr. Wilkes also brought actions against Lord H——, the surviving secretary of state, but being *outlawed*, about the close of the year, 1764, that noble lord made use of the plea of his being an outlaw, to stop proceedings. Under this state of outlawry, Mr. Wilkes has resided in France, and other countries,

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an exile from his native skies, supported it is said by the contributions of his friends in England, dividing his time between study and pleasure, which the remembrance of his many perils from in——— revenge the desperation of a Forbes, the lunacy of a dun, and the wounds of ———, had not the power to destroy his relish for: Two or three times he is said, upon delusive hopes of pardon to have visited London, and at length has had the boldness though still an outlaw, to put up as a candidate at the general election for the city of London, the fate of which is well known; and for the county of Middlesex, for which he was elected by a great majority. Whatever his fate may be, and however severely his enemies may arraign his private failings, it will never, can never be denied, that his steady opposition to illegal general warrants, has been, and ever will be of lasting benefit to the subjects of this kingdom; that if he is not virtuous, he is a lover of virtue; and a friend to the civil and religious Liberties of mankind; which we have no doubt of his displaying upon all future occasions, if he should sit in the House of Commons.

The Two Speeches of John Wilkes, Esq. at the
Bar at the Court of Common Pleas, May 3.
and 6, 1763.

My Lord,

I Feel myself happy to be at last brought before a
court, and before judges, whose characteristic
is the love of liberty. I have many humble
thanks to return for the immediate order you were
pleased to issue, to give me an opportunity of laying
my grievances before you. They are of a kind un-
paralleled in this free country, and I trust the conse-
quences will teach ministers of Scottish and arbitrary
principles, that the liberty of an English Subject is
not to be sported away with impunity, in this cruel
and despotic manner.

I am accused of being the author of the North
Briton, No. 45. I shall only remark upon that Pa-
per, that it takes all load of accusation from the sa-
cred name of a prince, whose family I love and
honour, as the glorious defenders of the cause of
liberty, and whose personal qualities are so amiable,
great and respectable, that he is deservedly the idol
of his people. It is the peculiar fashion and crime
of these times, and of those who hold high ministe-
rial offices in government, to throw every odious
charge from themselves upon Majesty. The author of
this papers whoever he, has upon constitutional prin-
ciples, done directly the reverse and is therefore in
me, the supposed author, meant to be persecuted
accordingly. The particular cruelties of my treatment,
worse

worse than if I had been a Scottish rebel this court will bear, and I dare say from your justice, in due time redress.

I may perhaps still have the means left in me, to shew that I have been superior in every temptation of corruption. They may indeed have flattered themselves that when they found corruption could not prevail, persecution might intimidate. I will shew myself superior to both. My papers have been seized, perhaps with a hope the better to deprive me of that proof of their meanness and corrupt prodigality which it may possibly in a proper place, be yet in my power to give.

My Lord,

FAR be it from me to regret that I have passed so many more days in captivity, as it will have afforded you an opportunity of doing upon mature reflection and repeated examination, the more signal justice to my country. The liberty of all peers and gentlemen, and what touches me more sensibly, of all the middling and inferior class of the people, which stands most in need of protection, is in my case this day to be finally decided; upon a question of such importance as to determine at once, whether English liberty be a reality or a shadow! Your own freeborn hearts will see with indignation and compassion all that load of oppression under which I have so long laboured. Close imprisonment, the effect of premeditated

ditated maice; all access for more than two days
 denied to me; my house ransacked and plundered;
 my most private and secret concerns divulged; every
 vile and malignant insinuation, even of high treason
 itself, no less industriously than falsely circulated by
 my cruel and implacable enemies, together with all the
 various insolence of office, form but a part of my un-
 exampled treatment. Such inhuman principles of
 Star-chamber tyranny, will I trust, by this Court
 upon this solemn occasion be finally extirpated, and
 henceforth every innocent man however poor and un-
 supported, may hope to sleep in peace and security in
 his own house untroubled by King's messengers and the
 arbitrary mandates of an overbearing Secretary of
 State—I will no longer delay your justice. The na-
 tion is impatient to hear, nor can be safe and happy
 till that is obtained. If the same persecution is after
 all to carry me before another court, I hope I shall
 find, that the genuine spirit of Magna Charta, that
 glorious inheritance, that distinguishing characteristic of
 Englishman, is as religiously revered there, as I
 know it is here, by the great personages before whom
 I have now the happiness to stand, and (as in the
 every memorable case of the imprisoned bishops) that
 an independent jury of Free-born Englishmen will
 persist to determine my fate, as in conscience bound
 upon constitutional principles, by a verdict of Guilty
 or not Guilty or not Guilty. I ask no more at the
 hands of my countrymen.

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Mr.

March 21st 1701

*Mr. Wilkes's Speech to the Livery of London, on
the Close of the Poll, March 23, 1768.*

Gentlemen and Fellow Citizens,

TH E poll being now finished. I return my sincerest thanks to those disinterested and independent friends, who have so generously and so steadily stood forth in my favour. The want of success out of your power to command has not in the least abated my zeal for your service. You cannot be unacquainted with the various circumstances which have attributed to it. My friends were of opinion that I should wait the dissolution of the last slavish and venal parliament, while the other candidates had been for many months soliciting your interest. Ministerial influence, assisted by private malice, has been exerted in the most arbitrary and unconstitutional manner, and by means of the basest chicanery and oppression. But though disappointed, I am not in the least dispirited: On the contrary, I reflect with pride and gratitude on the many instances of regard and affection I have received from the livery of London.—I beg leave to make the best acknowledgments to the Sheriffs, who have shewn to the utmost candour and impartiality during the election, accompanied with a dignity of character becoming their stations in this Metropolis.—And now, Gentlemen, Freeholders of the county of Middlesex, declaring my intention of appearing as a candidate to represent you in Parliament, and still hoping by your means to have the honour of being useful to you in the British Senate

Senate—I recommend it to you in the strongest manner, to exert yourselves to preserve the peace and quiet of this great city.

Mr. Wilkes's Address to the Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the County of Middlesex.

Gentlemen,

MOST gratefully sensible of these generous and patriotic principles which have induced you to elect me your representative in parliament, I entreat you to accept my best endeavours to express the joy which inspires me on so interesting so affecting an occasion. The personal regard you have shewn me, indeed, confers on me an obligation, the due sense of which I too cordially feel to find words to describe. I cannot however, forbear congratulating you as the most distinguished of Englishmen, on the honourable proof you have given, that the genuine spirit of independency, the true love of our country (for which the county of Middlesex has for ages been so eminently conspicuous) still glow in your breasts with unremitting ardour, still shine forth with undiminished lustre. Let the sons of venality bow the knee to the idol of sordid influence. Let them call their pusillanimity prudence, while they ignominiously kiss the rod of power, and tamely stoop to the yoke which artful Ministers insidiously prepare, and arbitrarily impose.

impose. You, Gentlemen, have shewn that you are neither to be deceived nor enslaved.

In proving yourselves enemies to the ministerial persecution, the eyes of the whole kingdom, of the whole world, are upon you, as the first and firmest defenders of publick liberty. Happy shall I think myself, if fired by your example, the efforts of my warmest zeal may be deemed an adequate return for the favours you have bestowed on me; but however insufficient my abilities, my will to serve you is unbounded, as it is unalterable. Engaged as I have long been in the glorious cause of Freedom, I beg you to consider my past conduct as an earnest for the future, and look on me as a man whose primary views will ever regard the rights and privileges of his fellow countrymen in general, and whose secondary views shall be attentively fixed on the dignity advantage and prosperity of the county of Middlesex. Let me therefore desire of you, Gentlemen, to favour me, from time to time, with such instructions as may enable me to accomplish those ends; resting assured of always finding me devoted to your service; and that the happiest moments of my life will be those in which I am employed in maintaining the civil and religious rights of England in promoting the interests of my constituents.

Mr.

Mr. Wilkes's Speech to the Court of King's
Bench, on Wednesday April 30, 1768.

My Lords,

According to my voluntary promise I made to the public, I now appear before this sovereign court of justice, to submit myself in every thing to the laws of my country.

Two verdicts have been found against me. One is for the republication of the *North Briton*, No. 45, the other for the publication of a ludicrous poem.

As to the re-publication of the number of the *North-Briton*, I cannot yet see that there is the smallest degree of guilt. I have often read and examined with care that famous paper. I know that it is in every part founded on the strongest evidence of facts. I find it full of duty and respect to the person of the king, although it arraigns in the severest manner, the conduct of his majesty's then ministers, and brings very heavy charges home to them. I am persuaded they were well grounded, because every one of those ministers has since been removed. No one instance of falshood has yet been pointed out in that pretended libel, nor was the worse false in the information before this court. I am therefore perfectly easy under every imputation respecting a paper, in which truth has guided the pen of the writer, whoever he was in every single line, and it is this circumstance which has drawn on me,

me, as the supposed author all the cruelties of ministerial vengeance.

As to the other charge against me for the publication of a poem, which has given just offence, I will assert that such an idea never entered my mind. I blush again at the recollection that it has been at any time and in any way brought to the publick eye, and drawn from the obscurity in which it remained under my roof. Twelve copies of a small part of it has been printed at my house at my own private press. I had carefully locked them up, and I never gave one to the most intimate friend. Government, after the affair of the *North Briton*, bribed one of my servants to rob me of the copy, which was produced in the house of Peers, and afterwards before this honourable court. The nation was justly offended, but not with me, for it was evident that I had not been guilty of the least offence to the publick, I pray God to forgive as I do, the jury, who have found me guilty of publishing a poem I concealed with care, and which even not yet published, if any precise meaning can be affixed to any word in our language.

But my Lords neither of the two verdicts could have been found against me, if the records had not been materially altered without my consent, and, as I am informed contrary to law. On the evening only before the two trials, I ***
 C*** J*** M***** caused the records to be altered, against the consent of my solicitor, and without my knowledge, for a dangerous illness,

illness, arising from an affair of honour, detained me at that time abroad, the alterations were of the utmost importance, and I was in consequence tried the very next day on two new charges, of which I could know nothing. I w.^d venture to declare this proceeding unconstitutional. I am am advised that it is illegal, and that it renders both the verdicts absolutely void.

I have stood forth, my Lords, in support of the laws against arbitrary acts of ministers. This Court of justice, in a solemn appeal respecting *General Warrants* shewed their sense of my conduct. I shall continue to reverence the wise and mild system of *English laws*, and this excellent constitution. I have been much misrepresented, but under every species of persecution, I will remain firm and friendly to the monarchy, dutiful and affectionate to the illustrious Prince, who wears the crown, and to the whole *Brunswick* line.

As to all nice and intricate points of law, I am sensible how narrow and circumscribed my ideas are, but I have experienced the deep knowledge, and great abilities of my counsel. With them I rest the legal part of my defence, submitting every point to the judgment of this honourable Court, and to the laws of *England*.

My Lords, I am, Sir, your obedient servant, and every day of freedom you may be graciously pleased to admit me to the endowment of my dear native land, which shall give me a new attachment to your service. *My*

Mr. Wilke's Letter to a great Personage.

SIRE,

I Beg thus to throw myself at your M——'s feet, and supplicate the mercy and clemency which shine with such lustre among your princely virtues,

Some former ministers, whom your M——, in condescension to the wishes of your people thought proper to remove, empl^y yet every wicked and deceitful act to oppress your subject, and to avenge their own personal cause on him, whom they imagined to be the principal author of bring to public view, their ignorance, sufficiency and to your M—— and N——

I have been the innocent and unhappy victim of revenge. I was forced by their injustice and violence into exile, which I have never ceased to consider for many years, as the most cruel oppression, because I could not longer be under the benign influence of your M—— in the land of liberty.

With a heart full of zeal for the service of your M—— and my country, I implore Sire, your clemency. My only hopes of pardon are founded in the great goodness and benevolence of your M——, and every day of freedom you may be graciously pleased to admit me to the enjoyment of, in my dear native land, shall give proofs of my zeal and attachment to your service.

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The following is part of a letter from Mr. Wilkes to the Duke of Grafton, in which he relates to that Nobleman every particular relative to his being apprehended by a general Warrant, brought before the secretaries of state, and by them committed to the Tower on the 30th of April, 1763:

ON my return from the city early in the morning, I met at the end of Great George Street one of the king's messengers. He told me that he had a Warrant to apprehend me, which he must execute immediately, and that I must attend him to Lord Halifax's. I desired to see the Warrant. He said it was against the authors, printers, and publishers of the North Briton, No. 45. and that his verbal orders were to arrest Mr. Wilkes. I told him the Warrant did not respect me: I advised him to be very civil, and to use no violence in the street, for, if he attempted force, I would put him to death in the instant; but if he would come quietly to my house, I would convince him of the illegality of the Warrant, and the injustice of the orders he had received. He chose to accompany me home, and then produced the general warrant. I declared that such a Warrant was absolutely illegal and void in itself, that it was a ridiculous Warrant against the whole English nation, and I asked why he would serve it on me, rather than on the Lord Chancellor, on either of the secretaries, on Lord Bute, or Lord Corke, my

my next-door neighbour? The answer was, *I am to arrest Mr. Wilkes*. About an hour afterwards, two other messengers arrived, and several of their assistants. They all endeavoured in vain to persuade me to accompany them to Lord Halifax's. I had likewise many civil messages from his lordship to desire my attendance. My only answer was, that I had not the honour of visiting his lordship, and this first application was rather rude and ungentleman-like.

While some of the messengers and their assistants were with me, Mr. Churchill came into the room. I had heard that their verbal orders were likewise to apprehend him, but I suspected they did not know his person, and by presence of mind I had the happiness of saving my friend. As soon as Mr. Churchill entered the room, I accosted him, "Good morrow, Mr. Thomson. How does Mrs. Thomson do to-day? Does she dine in the country?" Mr. Churchill thanked me, said she then waited for him, that he only came for a moment to ask me how I did, and almost directly took his leave. He went home immediately, secured all his papers, and retired into the country. The messengers could never get intelligence where he was. The following week he came to town, and was present, both the days of hearing at the court of Common Pleas.

The whole morning passed in messages between Lord Halifax and me. The business of the messengers being soon publickly known; several

several of my friends came to me on so extraordinary an event. I desired two or three of them to go the Court of Common Pleas, to make affidavit of my being made a prisoner in my own house under an illegal Warrant, and to demand the habeas corpus. The chief justice gave orders that it should issue immediately.

A constable came afterwards with several assistants to the messengers. I repeatedly insisted on their all leaving me, and declared I would not suffer any one of them to continue in the room against my consent, for I knew and would support the rights of an Englishman in the sanctuary of his own house. I was then threatened with immediate violence, and a regiment of the guards, if necessary. I soon found all resistance would be vain. The constable demanded my sword, and insisted on my immediately attending the messengers to Lord H—. I replied, that if they were not assassins, they should first give me their names in writing. They complied with this, and thirteen set their hands to the paper. I then got into my own chair, and proceeded to Lord H—, guarded by the messengers, and their assistants.

I was conducted into a great apartment fronting the Park, where Lord H— and Lord E—, the two S— of S—, were sitting at a table covered with paper, pens and ink. The under-secretaries stood near their lordships. Mr. Lovel Stanhope, the law clerk, and Mr. Philip Carteret Webb, the solicitor of the treasury, were

were the only persons besides who attended. Lord E—— received me with a supercilious, insolent air; Lord H—— with great politeness. I was desired to take the chair near their lordships, which I did. Lord H—— then began, "That he was really concerned that he had been necessitated to proceed in that manner against me, that it was exceedingly to be regretted that a gentleman of my rank and abilities could engage against his king, and his majesty's government." I replied, "that his lordship could not be more mistaken, for the king had not a subject more zealously attached to his person and government than myself: that I had all my life been a warm friend of the house of Brunswick, and the protestant succession; that while I made the truest professions of duty to the king, I was equally free to declare in the same moment, that I believed no prince had ever the misfortune of being served by such ignorant, insolent, and despotic ministers, of which my being there was a fresh, glaring proof; for I was brought before their lordships by force, under a general Warrant, which named nobody, in violation of the laws of my country, and of the privileges of parliament; that I begged both their lordships to remember my present declaration; that on the very first day of the ensuing session of parliament, I would stand up in my place, and impeach them for the outrage they had committed in my person against the liberties of the people." Lord H—— answered,

swered, " That nothing had been done but by the advice of the best lawyers, and that it was now his duty to examine me." He had in his hand a long list of questions, regularly numbered. He began, " Mr. Wilkes, do you know Mr. Kearsey? When did you see him? &c. &c." I replied, " That I suspected there was a vain hope my answer would tend rather to what his lordship wished to know; that he seemed to be lost in a dark and intricate path, and really wanted much light to guide him through it; but that I could assure his lordship not a single ray should come from me." Lord H— returned to the charge, " Mr. Wilkes do you know Mr. Kearsey? &c. &c." I said, " That this was a curiosity on his lordship's part, which, however laudable in the secretary, I did not find myself disposed to gratify, and that at the end of my examination, all the quires of paper on their lordships table should be as milk white as at the beginning." Lord H— then " desired to remind me of my being their prisoner, and of their right to examine me." I answered, " That I should imagine their lordships time was too precious to be trifled away in that manner; that they might have seen before I would never say one word they desired to know," and I added, " indeed my lords, I am not made of such slight flimsy stuff." Then turning to Lord E——, I said, " Could you employ tortures, I would never utter a word unbecoming my honour, or affecting the sacred confidence of any friend.

God

God has given me firmness and fidelity. You trifle away your time most egregiously my lords." Lord H—— then "advised me to weigh well the consequences of my conduct and the advantages to myself of a generous, frank confession." I lamented "the prostitution of the word generous; to what I should consider as an act of the utmost treachery, cowardice, and wickedness." His lordship then asked me, "If I chose to be a prisoner in my own house, at the Tower, or in Newgate, for he was disposed to oblige me?" I gave his lordship my thanks, but "I desired to remark, that I never received an obligation, but from a friend, that I demanded justice, and my immediate liberty as an Englishman, who had not offended the laws of his country; that as to the rest it was beneath my attention; the odious idea of restraint was the same odious idea every where; that I would go where I pleased, and if I was restrained by a superior force, I must yield to the violence, but would never give colour to it by a shameful compromise; that every thing was indifferent to me in comparison of my honour and my liberty; that I made my appeal to the laws, and had already by my friends applied to the court of Common Pleas for the Habeas Corpus, which the chief justice had actually ordered to be issued; and that I hoped to owe my discharge solely to my innocence, and to the vigour of the law in a free country." Lord H—— then told me, "That I should be sent to the Tower, where I
 should

should be treated in a manner suitable to my rank,
 and that he hoped the messengers had behaved well to
 me." I acknowledged that they had behaved with
 humanity, and even civility to me, notwithstanding the
 Russian orders given them by his lordship's colleague."
 I then again turned to Lord E——, and said,
 "Your lordship's verbal orders were to drag me out
 of my bed at midnight. The first man, who had en-
 tered my bed chamber by force, I should have laid
 dead on the spot. Probably I should have fallen in
 the skirmish with the others. I thank God, not your
 lordship, that such a scene of blood has been avoided.
 Your lordship is very ready to issue orders, which you
 have neither the courage to sign, nor I believe to jus-
 tify." No reply was made to this. The conversation
 dropped. Lord H—— retired into another ap-
 partment. Lord E—— continued sullen and
 silent about a quarter of an hour. I then made a
 few remarks on some capital pictures, which were in
 the room, and his lordship left me alone. You find
 I was afterwards conducted into another apartment.
 I found there several of my friends in argument with
 the most infamous of all the tools of that administra-
 tion. Mr. ———. He confirmed
 to me, that I was to be carried to the Tower, "and
 wished to know if I had any favours to ask." I re-
 plied, "That I was used to confer, not to receive
 favours; that I was superior to the receiving any
 even from his masters; that all I would say to him
 was, if my valet de chambre was allowed to attend
 me in the Tower, I should be shaved and have a clean
 shirt; if he was not, I should have a long beard,
 and

and dirty linen." Mr. W— said, that orders would be given for his admission at the Tower." I complained of the shameful evasion of the Habeas Corpus, in sending me to the Tower, though the orders of the Lord Chief Justice Pratt were known. Mr. W— made no reply to this. He came to visit me at the Tower in the beginning of my imprisonment, when I had not the permission to see any friend. I desired him almost at his first entrance to take his leave, "for if I was not allowed to see those I loved, I would not see those I despised."

While I continued in the Tower, I was pressed to offer bail in order to regain my liberty, and two of the first nobility desired to be my securities, in the sum of 100,000 l. each. I was exceedingly grateful for the offer, but would not accept it. I observed, that neither my health nor my spirits were affected; that I would by great temperance and abstinence endeavour to compensate the want of air and exercise, but if my health suffered in a dangerous way, I would then accept such generous offers, for I hoped to live, that so noble a cause might be brought to a glorious issue for the liberties of my country. From the beginning of this arduous business, I would not on any occasion give bail, by which I never involved any friends, and remained the perfect master of my own conduct.

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